

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/768,965  
Response filed November 13, 2007  
Reply to OA dated July 12, 2007

### **REMARKS**

Claims 3, 4, 6 and 9-30 are pending in this application, with claims 9-30 withdrawn from consideration. Claim 4 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 3 is amended and claims 31-40 are newly added herein. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 3, 6 and 9-40 will be pending, with claims 9-30 withdrawn from consideration. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the rejections are respectfully requested.

No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

**Claims 3-4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S. C. 112, first paragraph.** (Office action paragraph no. 7)

**Claims 3-4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S. C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.** (Office action paragraph no. 8)

These rejections are overcome by the amendments to the claims. Claim 3 is amended in lines 1-3 as follows: "An allergen inactivating method for Cryj-1 or Cryj-2 cedar antigen ~~dust mites or pollen mainly composed of protein allergens~~ by maintaining the ~~allergens~~ antigen under a condition in which the enzyme and a denaturing agent exist." That is, claim 3 is limited to a method for "Cryj-1 or Cryj-2 cedar antigen" instead of "dust mites or pollen composed mainly of protein allergens," and the recitation of "allergens" has accordingly been amended to --antigen--.

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**Claims 3-4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishii et al. (PTO-892, Reference U). (Office action paragraph no. 11)**

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims. Support for the amendment to lines 1-3 of claim 3 has been detailed above. In addition, the limitation of claim 4 has been incorporated into claim 3, and claim 4 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Ishii fails to disclose an allergen inactivating method for an “allergen inactivating method for Cryj-1 or Cryj-2 antigen,” as recited in the amended claim 3.

Further, Ishii fails to disclose “maintaining **the antigen** under a condition in which an enzyme and **a denaturing agent** exist, **wherein the denaturing agent is any one of a surfactant, urea, and a salt.**” as recited in the amended claim 3.

The Examiner asserts in the Action that Ishii’s NaCl solution corresponds to the denaturing agent recited in claim 3, and Ishii’s NaCl to the denaturing agent recited in claim 4, but Applicant respectfully disagrees. As described at page 263, right column, under the heading “MATERIALS AND METHODS,” lines 7 to 9, “[C]ultured **mites** were collected by flotation method with saturated NaCl solution and stored at -70°C” (emphasis added). This NaCl solution of Ishii is used to **extract mites** from a mixture including the mites. Ishii is silent with regard to whether NaCl is involved in

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any process following the extraction. Even if, for the sake of argument, NaCl were involved in any process following the extraction, Ishii fails to teach using NaCl as a denaturing agent.


Claims 3 and 6, as amended, are therefore not obvious over Ishii et al.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time  
Amendment Fee Transmittal